

Docket No. 70669

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Qi et al. }
Application No.: 09/976,674 }
Filed: October 12, 2001 }
Title: NOVEL SERINE
PROTEASE GENES
RELATED TO DPPIV }
Group Art Unit: 1652 }
Examiner: Walicka, Małgorzata A.

11/B
M.J.J
6/2/03**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the first Office Action on the merits mailed January 28, 2003, to which a shortened statutory period for response is being contemporaneously extended to expire on May 28, 2003, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks: